

Date

Mr. Julius P. Hebert, Jr.
Herbert and Marceaux, LLC
4752 Hwy 311, Suite 114
Houma, La. 70360

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-711

Dear Mr. Hebert:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its October 8, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prevent Terrebonne Parish Department of Housing and Human Services employee Araminta Rainey from enrolling her son in the head start program.

FACTS PROVIDED

The Terrebonne Head Start Program is a federally-funded childcare and education program for preschool children from low-income families, with eligibility determined by the federal poverty guidelines. The Program provides all services at no cost to participating families. Ms. Rainey's son qualified under the federal standards.

You stated that Araminta Rainey currently serves as the Community Outreach Specialist for the Terrebonne Head Start Program. A major function of Ms. Rainey's job is to coordinate and implement all eligibility, recruitment, selection enrollment and attendance activities as required by head start performance standards.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1113

- A. prohibits a public servant or a member of such public servant's immediate family or a legal entity in which he has controlling interest from bidding on or entering into any contract, subcontract or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the public servant's agency.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that Araminta Rainey's son would be prohibited by the Code from enrolling in the Head Start Program. La. R.S. 42:1113A prohibits a public servant from entering into any transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant. Ms. Rainey's agency is the Terrebonne Head Start Program. Since the enrollment application is processed by Ms. Rainey in the course of her

official job duties as Community Outreach Specialist for the Terrebonne Head Start Program and she determines who is eligible to participate in the program, her son would not be allowed to participate in the program.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Suzanne Quinlan Mooney
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.